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COUNCIL FOR A LIVABLE WORLD

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March 25, 1963

Doctor Joshua Lederberg
716 Alvarado
Stanford, California

Dear Doctor Lederberg:

I am writing to report to you my personal views on the work of the Council and the situation with which the Council is faced.

During the last election the Council did fairly well. We concentrated on the Senate and recommended to members of the movement to send us a check made out either to George McGovern, who was running in South Dakota, or Senator Joseph Clark, who was running for re-election in Pennsylvania. We received and transmitted to George McGovern checks totaling over \$20,000 and to Senator Clark over \$10,000.

McGovern was elected with a margin of a few hundred votes and it is generally recognized here that the Council was instrumental in his election. His maiden speech, which concerned itself with Cuba, was very impressive as you may judge yourself from the enclosed copy.

A few weeks before the elections we learned that Senator Wayne Morse, who was running for re-election in Oregon, needed funds. The Council thereupon sent telegrams to all those who, in a questionnaire previously sent to them, had expressed a marked personal preference in his favor. In response, the Council received and transmitted to Senator Morse checks totaling over \$4,000.

1963 is not an election year, yet the Council plans in the Fall to set up three bank accounts, each one in trust for a senator who intends to run for re-election in 1964. The Council will recommend to its supporters that each make a campaign contribution to one of these senators in the amount of one-half of the total contribution which they intend to make this year in support of the work of the Council. The three senators to be supported in this manner in 1963 will be selected by the Council from among the seven senators listed below and also in the enclosed questionnaire. If you are willing to make such a campaign contribution this year and if you have any marked personal preference in favor of one of these seven senators, you are asked to check the enclosed questionnaire accordingly for the guidance of the Council.

The seven senators named in the questionnaire are as follows: Quentin N. Burdick (6), N. Dakota; Albert Gore (10), Tennessee; Philip A. Hart (9), Michigan; Frank E. Moss (9), Utah; Gale W. McGee (9), Wyoming; Edmund S. Muskie (9), Maine; Eugene J. McCarthy (8), Minnesota.

They all happen to be Democrats. This is not due to any bias which the Council might have in this regard, but rather to the fact that all of them seem clearly superior to any of the Republican Senators who come up for re-election in 1964. These Republicans are: J. Glenn Beall (3), Maryland;

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Hiram L. Fong (4), Hawaii; Barry Goldwater (0), Arizona; Roman L. Hruska (0), Nebraska; Kenneth B. Keating (6), New York; E. L. Mechem (appointed Nov. 30, 1962), New Mexico; Winston L. Prouty (3), Vermont; Hugh Scott (3), Pennsylvania; John J. Williams (3), Delaware.

The numbers in parentheses following the name of each senator represent the Council's rating on a scale of zero to ten, based on key votes on legislation pertaining to the U. N., the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, foreign aid and foreign trade.

If you are not prepared to make a campaign contribution later this year you will have an opportunity to make a contribution to one of the special projects of the Council which are at present in preparation.

* * *

The Council would be grateful if you would make out a check at this time for one-half of your contribution to the Council, which will be used for the operations of the Council's National Office, which include expanding the membership and also the political activities of the Council in Washington.

If you are one of those who have asked to be billed bi-monthly then your contribution automatically goes to the general funds of the Council, this would not bar you, however, from indicating your personal preferences in the enclosed questionnaire.

President Kennedy has assembled a remarkably large number of capable men in his Administration but they have so far not made much headway towards solving the problem that the bomb poses to the world. The President will be able to make substantial progress in this regard only if his Administration can, before long, reach a consensus on what the desirable objectives may be that would be attainable by the end of his second term.

Because some of these objectives involve other nations, one would have to explore which of the desirable objectives may be negotiable, before one can state the desirable objectives which are likely to be attainable.

Moreover, the attainable objectives would not be attainable unless public opinion in America were prepared for their acceptance. Only the President of the United States can carry out the education of the public that is needed and he can do it only if there is a clear picture of the objectives that the Administration is going to pursue. If the Administration knew ahead of time the path along which it would be moving and if it were able to assess how fast it would be able to move, then the President would be in a good position to prepare public opinion for what is to come.

The Council intends to maintain contact with about twelve senators and about an equal number of men within the Administration and it is at present actively exploring in what manner it would best assist in catalyzing a consensus in Washington on what the "attainable" national objectives might be.



Leo Szilard